

"טאפארו דא פלאחו"

Issue #3



"Where the Ax Hits the Wood"

There's no Lubavitcher that doesn't want to do what the Rebbe says, he just hasn't found the time.

What really gets anyone with one-liners such as this is the witty truth they resemble. Almost anyone that hears them feels as if they are being personally spoken to. A similar idea can be applied to Limmud HaTorah: We plan chavrusahs, commit to shiurim, make hachlotos and genuinely try to keep them; but somehow, life gets in the way of our good intentions, and before we know it we're back to the start, renewing the hachlotos we have just recently made.

This tedious cycle could be discontinued with only a few small changes on our part. This series has in the past addressed small details such as these and now continues to do so. Here are some tips to keep you going.

Don't be restricted by convention. Choose topics that are of a personal interest to you.

The Rebbe would often state the importance of "studying in a place where the heart desires, במקום שלבו". This was not only in regards to the location where one learns but also the topic he chooses. Practically speaking, if the topic interests you, the

higher the chances are that you will enjoy the learning, internalize it and come back for more. The Rebbe also encouraged changing topics as soon as concentration wanes, in which case being machmir on finishing particular segments just for the sake of it would not be encouraged.

Relate Torah to Your Daily Life

For those involved in the realm of business, an insight into the laws of buying, selling and lending, as spelled out in the halachos of Maaseh U'Mattan, would be not only interesting but quite practical as well.

For the more medically inclined, perhaps an insight into the Torah's views on health matters as relayed in Masseches Bechoros could benefit, especially when paralleled with existing knowledge in the medical field.

Whatever your profession or interest, there's bound to be a relevant section of Torah to suit it.

Define Your Style

Nowadays, educational psychologists spend countless hours analyzing, categorizing, and then re-categorizing the various learning styles students exhibit. Branded as multiple intelligences, the theory recognizes the need to cater to different learning capacities, from the visual, to the verbal, to the mathematical and so forth.

We are fortunate to have a Torah that recognized this from early on, holding within it a wide spectrum of topics that cater to different mind spaces. This, combined with today's presentation of Torah in all sorts of formats, ensures that whatever your style, there's a topic and method out there for you.

Whether you're more inclined towards gematria's mathematical tone and appreciate a thorough page of Baal Haturim, or your analytical capabilities get a decent workout from a deep discussion of Tanya, or your spatial tendencies appreciate the structure of Halachic study, Torah surely has an avenue to satisfy your intellectual cravings.

If the quality of your Torah study is enjoyable and satisfactory, chances are that your quantity of it will increase effortlessly.

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